

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 64

April 2017

No. 4



Calendar

Wed., Mar. 22	Citizens Assoc. mtg., Town Hall, 7:30 pm; nominations for Town Council; CA Meet & Greet (p 4)	11 am (rain date: Apr. 15; see p 4)
Fri., Mar. 24	Pick up your <i>Bugle</i> in Penn Place lobby; Montgomery Preservation award ceremony, Silver Spring Railroad Station, 6 pm (see p 7)	Mon., Apr. 10 Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sun., Mar. 26	Art at Penn Place, Penn Place Gallery Juried Invitational Show (till Apr. 22); gala reception to "Meet the Artists," 3–5 pm (see p 5)	Tues., Apr. 11 Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm
Mon., Mar. 27	Street cleaning (rain date: Mar. 28; see p 3)	Wed., Apr. 12 <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Thurs., Mar. 30	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Apr. 20 GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Apr. 1	GIVES collection, PO lobby, 9–12 pm; Marsh memorial, Town Hall, 4 pm (see p 6)	Fri., Apr. 21 <i>Bugle</i> out in Penn Place lobby
Thurs., Apr. 6	GP Jams, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., Apr. 23 GPFS presents <i>Labyrinth Journeys</i> , documentary featuring Vickie and Martin Baily's labyrinth, Town Hall, 3:30 pm; free (see p 2)
Sat., Apr. 8	Large item pickup; Easter egg hunt, basketball/tennis courts,	Wed., Apr. 26 Citizens Assoc. mtg., Town Hall, 7 pm; Candidates Forum
		Fri., Apr. 28 Film Society, <i>Harvey</i> , Town Hall; dinner 7 pm, film 8 pm (see p 5)
		Sun., Apr. 30 Musicale, Town Hall, 4 pm (p 7)
		Mon., May 1 Town election (see p 3)

The Sidewalks of Garrett Park

The Town Council, along with 15 or so residents, met under the threat of a major snowstorm to talk with Jason Azar of Nobis Engineering about town sidewalk designs.

The first 20 minutes of the meeting were accompanied by the sound of a drumroll—we have a problem with our microphones. But various people fiddled around onstage and managed to make it stop.

Hans Wegner began the meeting by noting that this gathering was not about the pros and cons of the project as such, but rather an opportunity to talk with Jason about ideas and concerns relative to the project as it has been sketched out so far.

Comments began with remarks by townspeople who have already been involved in sidewalk planning:

Lori Conlan said that trees are very important to us, as are curved and not straight sidewalks.

She pointed out that some people are worried about the impact of sidewalks—especially those on Oxford—on their personal property.

Dick Pratt discussed the “graceful curving alignment” we should use, and reviewed various forms of available curbing.

Alison Pearce pointed out that driveways are a big issue. Particularly on Oxford, close to Weymouth, where the street narrows, can we preserve the usefulness of people’s driveways?

Storm water, she continued, is another concern. Can anything be done, as we’re building, to mitigate some storm water problems, and to make sure storm water doesn’t flow toward people’s houses? Shelley Court would be one possible storm water work location.

Jason responded that Nobis might be able to fix some erosion/storm water problems as they do the work. Or Nobis might for instance find

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other areas in town that don't currently have storm water management, and the town could put a facility there. These sorts of solutions can be expensive.

Phil Schulp wondered where the water will go, "once you corral it." Jason responded that the sidewalk will be lifted up, and the curb will not impede water.

As to a timeline for the completion of design and approvals, Jason said an optimistic one would be within five to six months. Pessimistic: Nine to ten. So we're looking at fall at the earliest for shovels to go into the ground.

Hans reaffirmed with Jason that Nobis will meet with individual property owners along the construction sites and listen to their concerns.

One resident said: "It would be great if Nobis can do whatever is possible to expedite the process. There is a real need for greater safety via sidewalks."

Jason responded that it's the review cycle, when the proposal goes to various agencies, that will slow things down. "Otherwise, we're eager to go." He went on to say that the next step is a 65-percent design.

Barbara Jackson brought up concerns about the project's compatibility with ADA guidelines.

Charlie Snyder asked about the project's compatibility with federal environmental impact guidelines.

The town will make the next iteration of sidewalk design plans available to the town as soon as they're available. They will be posted in the post office, and they will be put online.

The meeting now turned to other traffic matters. Steph Hooton stood up to thank the Council "on behalf of many people, including the principal of Garrett Park Elementary School, and other school personnel, for putting new stop signs in near the school. They've made a huge difference in terms of safety for everyone. They've brought stability to that intersection, and the crossing guards are now really able to do their jobs."

She continued: "It's still tricky walking on particular stretches of Oxford, but the stop sign at Oxford and Montrose has also helped enormously."

Margaret Soltan

GPFS Special Presentation

On Sunday, April 23, at 3:30 pm at the Town Hall, the Garrett Park Film Society is sponsoring a free showing of *Labyrinth Journeys*, a documentary film by Cintia Cabib. The film features Garrett Park's own labyrinth (created by Vickie and Martin Baily) and six others located in the DC area. In addition to providing a history of labyrinths and their uses, the film explores the "personal stories of people who walk these labyrinths" in search of healing, mindfulness, or spiritual awareness.

Labyrinth Journeys runs 26 minutes. It will be followed by discussion with the director, Cintia Cabib, and Vickie Baily. All are welcome. Food and drinks will be served.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In our recent survey, more people expressed interest in Montgomery College courses than in any of the other activities listed. Information about MC's Lifelong Learning Institute is available at cms.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce. People 60 and older pay a fee for each course, and the tuition is waived.

Those who are interested in learning should also know about Oasis. Oasis is a national organization with an extensive program in Montgomery County. They offer a wide variety of classes in the arts, humanities, wellness, technology, and more. Some of their classes are one-time lectures on contemporary issues. Their classes meet at various locations in our area, including classrooms at the Montgomery Mall—the classrooms are accessed through the Macy's Home Store. See their website at www.oasisnet.org/Washington-DC-area.

Ken Keppel

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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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First-class subscriptions cost \$15 (bulk mail subscriptions are no longer available). Letters to the editor can be submitted by e-mail, mail, or hand to *Bugle* staff. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Manager Notes

Election day. Mark your calendar for Monday, May 1. Please remember to vote! Three seats on the Town Council will be on the ballot. The candidate nominations meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall.

State tax form reminder. Remember to write “Garrett Park” in the box labeled “City, Town or Taxing Area” when filling out your state income tax forms. If someone prepares your tax returns for you, be sure to remind them to put “Garrett Park” in that box. This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to the 23 counties and 157 incorporated cities and towns throughout Maryland. This revenue supports many of the services the town provides to residents.

Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The FY 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets were adopted at the March 13 Town Council meeting. The budget is available on the town website. The FY 2018 budget leaves the real property tax rate unchanged at 21¢ per \$100 of value and the personal and corporate property tax unchanged at \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The refuse collection fee has been reduced to \$330 per household.

Large item pickup. The next large item pickup is scheduled for Saturday, April 8. Remember to place your items curbside no later than Friday.

Reminder regarding permits. If you are planning to do any construction this spring, please remember that a Garrett Park building permit is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. To save time, it’s a good idea to complete your Garrett Park permit and submission of plats and drawings before requesting a county permit.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:
www.garrettparkmd.gov

Permit applications can be completed online at the town website at www.garrettparkmd.gov/government/operations/permits. Credit cards are accepted.

Street cleaning. The town streets will be cleaned on March 27, with a rain date of March 28. Reminders will be sent out on the website and on GPML. We ask that you move your cars off the streets so that the cleaning can extend from curb to curb.

Reminders re yard waste collection. Yard waste is now collected every Monday through the end of October. Use paper bags for yard waste; no plastic, please! Don’t forget to bundle brush.

If you have branches too large to bundle for yard waste collection, bring them to the curb, butt-end facing the street; the maintenance staff will come by and chip them.

Also remember that bamboo cannot be chipped—it jams the chipper and sends out dangerous shards. Please cut it up into 4-foot lengths and either bundle or bag it for regular yard waste collection on Mondays.

If you have any questions about town services, please call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Gene Swearingen, Town Manager

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Citizens Association Notes

Thanks to everyone who participated in the CA's *Bugle* survey; a total of 68 people participated. Your responses will be used to shape the editorial and publishing process going forward.

- 93 percent of respondents read the *Bugle* regularly.
- 88 percent of people read it for the town business, 85 percent for the town calendar, and 68 percent for other news.
- 74 percent of people get their *Bugle* in-person at the Post Office.
- There wasn't a strong preference for a phone/tablet specific version; the PDF version is sufficient.
- Only 6 percent of respondents are ready for a change in the paper format. The remaining 94 percent like it as is.

We are still going over the results, especially the suggestions and comments that over half of the respondents left. Stay tuned.

Upcoming events: Save these dates!

- Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 pm, Town Hall: Town Council *candidate nominations* will be held at the CA meeting on March 22. Following the nominations, the Citizens Association will hold a "Meet and Greet." CA officers will be on hand to discuss your ideas and chat about the future of the CA. Come with your ideas. The CA will be providing some snacks and wine, but feel free to BYO.
- Saturday, April 8, 11 am, basketball/tennis courts: *Easter Egg Hunt!* Rain date is April 15. Keep an eye out for signs at the Post Office and e-mails on the listserv.
- Wednesday, April 26, 7 pm, Town Hall: *Candidates Forum:* Come hear the candidates for Town Council.
- Saturday, June 10, 7:30 to 10:30 pm: *Wine tasting!* Details will be forthcoming.

Future meetings. Do you have a suggestion or idea for a meeting topic that you feel would be of

interest to the town? If so, please forward your thoughts to Darshini Trivedi or send a note to Box 456.

Annual dues. The Citizens Association 2017 annual dues are being collected. The annual dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 per family. Thank you to all of those who have already paid. For those who have not, please submit dues by mailing them to the Citizens Association at Box 456.

Garrett Park listserv. Our neighborhood is made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds, skills, perspectives, and experiences. Tap into these resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. The listserv is an electronic forum for neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (for example, contractors, lawn care, doctors, and baby sitters). The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Darshini Trivedi.

Yoga for All Levels

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Questions? Email Liz at gayatrimantra.liz@gmail.com
Visit lilylotusyoga.com

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Art at Penn Place

First of all, a *big thank you* to those who filled the gallery to capacity for the Youth Exhibit reception, and encouraged our very talented young artists. Congratulations to Rosie Holtsman, Sydney Kantor, Maia Gonzalez DerVartanian, Bella Down, Hanna Barlow, Ella Fielding, Ella Oskvig, Juliana Altar, Reilly Harris, Casey Ruhlen, Abby Bruskin, Lucy Davenport, Anna Ruhlen, Libby Flannery, Paul Murray, Riley Birdsong, Brooke Perry, Clara Davenport, Ella Murray, Olivia Romano, Mia Romano, Gianna Schulp, Kendall Harris, and Quinn Harris for creating the amazing carousel animals and contributing to one of the most unique exhibits in gallery history.

We received so many enthusiastic comments in our guest book, including “Amazing “Best show of youth art ever!!” “Fabulous! This show makes me smile” “Unbelievable! Wow!” “Spectacular! Beautiful works of art! Congrats to all the artists on a truly fabulous job!” “We are so impressed! I love the creativity in each and every animal!” “These young artists rock!”

In only two years, the Youth Art Workshop and Exhibit has become one of our most popular events, and we look forward to next year. If you are a member of Facebook, please visit our gallery page at “Art at Penn Place” to see photos of this fantastic exhibit.

On Sunday, March 26, Penn Place Gallery will present our annual Invitational Show. The Invitational is a group exhibit for artists who do not live in Garrett Park, but who do live in Montgomery County. The Invitational Show, exhib-

ited from March 26 to April 22, will open with a Gala reception catered by Black Market Bistro on March 26 from 3 to 5 pm at the Penn Place Gallery, and everyone is invited! Best in Show, as well as second and third place winners will be announced at the March 26 reception, and the winning artist will be awarded a solo show in the gallery in 2018. Please mark your calendars for the March 26 gala reception, and we look forward to seeing you at the gallery!

Next year, the gallery will be offering a new event, called the “Aspiring Artist Exhibit.” If you are an aspiring Garrett Park artist, 13 years old and older, and would like to submit one piece of your artwork in acrylics, oils, pastels, photography, collage, watercolors, or other wall-hung art, start giving some thought to entering this fun exhibit. The “Aspiring Artist Exhibit” is a group show for those artists in town who enjoy creating, but don’t feel quite ready for a solo show. We will post more details as the event grows closer, but wanted to give you plenty of time to get your creative juices bubbling. Beginning and experienced artists are all welcome and encouraged to participate!

GPFS Presents *Harvey* April 28

On Friday, April 28, at 8 pm, the GP Film Society presents *Harvey* (1950), the classic film starring James Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd, a middle-aged, eccentric man whose best friend, Harvey, is an invisible six-foot rabbit. This gentle comedy is among AFI’s 100 best movie comedies ever and is sponsored by Henri and Chris Keller.

As always, dinner and drinks will be served at 7 pm. Menu is still to be determined. Look for details in the next *Bugle*, on the garrettparkneighbors list, or at the Post Office the week before. Cost for dinner is \$10 per person. Cost of drinks (water, soda, beer, and wine) ranges from \$1 to \$5. Admission to the film is free to GPFS members and \$5 per person for nonmembers.

See you at the Town Hall!



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Obituary

Daniel J. Marsh

Dan Marsh of Garrett Park (age 62) passed away on Tuesday, February 28. He is survived by his wife, Jenny Krivanek; daughter, Hannah Marsh; brothers, James and Stephen Marsh; sisters, Patricia Rizvi and Christina Malone; aunt, Margaret Partheymuller; and a host of family and friends. He will live on in their memories.

Dan brought poetry into the lives of those he knew, made us laugh, and inspired us to think. His wonderful personal library reflects the passions he loved to share—baseball, typography, the golden age of Antarctic exploration, art, and literature. Whatever you were interested in, Dan knew a book you just had to read.

Friends are invited to celebrate his life on Saturday, April 1, at 4 pm at the Town Hall. Those wishing to make a gift in his name may donate to PEN America, 588 Broadway, Suite 303, New York, NY 10012 (pen.org/donate/).

Greening Report

This month's green banner is sponsored by Chris and Henri Keller in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Many thanks and congratulations to you both!

In the coming months, we will also be acknowledging other sponsors, whose contributions will cover the green banner through July. Thanks, everyone, for the great response.

If anyone else would like to support the Citizens Association with contributions of any kind, including dues (\$25 per family or \$15 per individual per address), please make out a check to the Citizens Association with a note in the memo line explaining what it is for, and mail it to the Citizens Association at Box 456. We'd be most grateful.

And don't forget that if you have any interest in contributing to making the *Bugle* happen (see p 4), get in touch with Sean Conlan. Thanks!

Letter to the Editor

Town Election

In two months, our town will be holding a very important election, of which every citizen should be apprised and in which every citizen should be involved. Including you. This is why:

For the past several years, many of the town's basic needs have been neglected.

The Town Hall, for instance, is in dire need of work. In the winter, the taps cannot be fully closed, increasing risk that pipes will freeze. The floor is so thin that it may splinter if stressed. The windows seep cold and hot air and must be reworked. The sound system is awful and has been overlooked for many years.

Penn Place needs a lot of work. Water from the Black Market has several times flooded the Post Office. Fortunately, the town's precious archives have so far been spared. But Penn Place's plumbing needs repairs badly, we understand.

It took more than a year to revise and reopen the town's website after it crashed.

Town parks and open spaces are deteriorating despite valiant efforts by residents and volunteers who give their time to clean them up.

Existing sidewalks continue to crack and buckle, endangering walkers and runners, children, and our elderly.

Many trees have been cut down, and too few have been either planted or planned, despite the fact that our town is a nationally recognized arborum, and proudly so. The town's maintenance

crew, Butch and Frank, are part of our town's most valuable assets. Yet they are badly overworked. The town government cut the crew from three down to two people, leaving Frank and Butch stressed beyond their endurance at times. This is no way to treat the gems of our town.

Meanwhile, money continues to be pumped inexplicably into our town's capital program budget—with budget surpluses being transferred year after year into capital projects going unspent despite budget lines that reappear year after year. At the end of fiscal 2018, it will stand at more than \$1.7 million, way above the town's operating budget, and up \$600,000 since last summer. An important question to consider here is why our tax dollars are sitting listlessly while more immediate needs of the town are being ignored.

It is time we address these issues and get our questions answered. This should be a moral imperative to each and every one of us. We need more from our town. Our town government needs to be held accountable and needs to be transparent in its work and in its answers. If not now, when? If not you, who? —Who among us are willing to put the needs of the town first, ahead of ego, ahead of disdain, ahead of vindictiveness? And get the work done?

Vote carefully in the May elections. Vote for candidates who care for our town and will help the town. They are the ones who deserve our vote; they are the ones who deserve to be elected.

Charles Snyder

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

♪ If spring cleaning should unearth photos, slides, or even negatives of town events, please consider donating them to the Archives. The Archives could use a laptop, also. Leave any donations in the Town Office if the Archives is not open.

♪ Nancy Schwartz and the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee will receive the Wayne M. Goldstein Preservation Advocacy Award from Montgomery Preservation, Inc., on March 24 at 6 pm. This award will be bestowed during the group's 29th annual event "to honor and celebrate excellence in historic preservation." The event will be held at the B&O railroad station in Silver Spring; more information can be found at www.montgomerypreservation.org.

The award is in recognition of the fine work done by Nancy and the committee (of which she is the long-time chair), including the Walking Tour, interactive map, the inception of the Garrett Park Overlay Zone, preparation of numerous reports, and much else. If you would like to join the contingent of Nancy's Garrett Park neighbors at the event, please see

the website and RSVP to mpi@montgomery-preservation.org.

2017 Musicale

Mark your calendars for the 21st Garrett Park Musicale on Sunday, April 30, at 4 pm at the Town Hall. This program for all music lovers benefits the Ilah Gieser Music Scholarship (now part of the Garrett Park Community Fund), which supports a year of private music lessons for a budding musician at Garrett Park Elementary School. This annual event always features a wide array of music and musicians, with something for everyone.

If you are a singer, instrumentalist, or group who would like a warm and enthusiastic audience, you should consider participating! And if you like to sing, you can still join the Town Singers, who perform each year at the musicale. It's a fun group who welcomes everyone, new or old.

If you are interested, please contact Sue Petito or Meme Lincoln.

Progressive Dinner, Saturday, May 20

Join your neighbors for this fun annual event! Complete the registration form below.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Indicate your top three preferences between hosting and providing.
(You will receive confirmation after May 11.)

If you routinely provide salad or dessert, please consider providing a main course or even hosting. Thanks!

Hosting options

All hosts receive a foundation of wine and should coordinate with providers as to any needs for bread or sides.

Please indicate maximum number
of guests you can accommodate: _____

____ Host salad (for 10 to 20)

____ Host main course* (for 10 to 20)

____ Host vegetarian main course* (for 10 to 14)
at my home

**Depending on the number of hosts and the size of host homes,
you may be asked to provide a starch. Thanks!*

Provider options

____ Provide appetizer (for 20 to 25)

____ Provide salad (for 12 to 14)

____ Provide meat main course (for 12 to 14)

____ Provide vegetarian main course (for 12 to 14)

____ Provide dessert (either 2 different desserts, or
double batch to feed 20)

Special dietary needs? (Vegetarian, vegan, food allergies)

Please list: _____

Able to assist with delivery of wine? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cost: \$7.50 per person/\$15 per couple to participate

Please return form to

Garrett Park Progressive Dinner/GP Women's Club

Box 494

Garrett Park, MD 20896

Make checks payable to Garrett Park Women's Club.

Questions? Contact Lillian Del Priore

Deadline for registration: **Monday, May 10**, please.